

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended in order to conform the specification to US formal requirements and to correct minor typographical errors in paragraphs [0017] (replacing reference number “23” with “22”) and [0019] (replacing “bracket” with “wall element”).

In addition, original claims 1-9 have been amended in accordance with US practice and new claims 10-20 have been added for examination. It is noted that pending claim 1 has been amended so as to have the same scope as claim 1 submitted according to Art. 34 PCT during the International phase of this application, which claim 1 was deemed to be novel and inventive by the EPO acting as the IPEA.

The amendment of claim 1 finds support, e.g., in paragraph [0009] of the specification.

New claims 10-20 find support in the original claims 1-9 and it is noted that new claim 16 finds additional support in the specification at paragraphs [0002], [0009], [0014], [0016] and [0020]-[0021].

It is further noted that translations of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination have been submitted herewith for information purposes only. Examination is requested based upon the amendments to the specification and claims as submitted in this Preliminary Amendment.

With respect to the translated annexes, it is noted that translations of page 2 and 3 of the specification have not been submitted, because the lower portion of page 2 and the upper portion of page 3 were deleted solely to permit the insertion of the brief description of DE 198 34 850 A1, which was cited by the International Search Report as an X reference. Thus, it is noted that the translated page 2a of the annex to the IPER serves as an additional concise explanation in English of DE 198 34 850 A1, which is listed in the IDS filed herewith.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the present Application are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes an interview, either telephonic or in person, will advance the prosecution of this matter, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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